

### **Abstract**

A client device, or information appliance such as a personal  
5 digital assistant, is capable of receiving multimedia data streams from  
a server. However, due to processing and display capabilities, the  
client device may not be able to present the complete data stream, or a  
user may elect to configure the client device not to process data that  
will unduly reduce the client device's performance. Accordingly, the  
10 present invention provides a method and apparatus for allowing a  
server to determine the native, or user selected, capabilities of a client  
device, such that the server can filter and parse the data into  
meaningfully presentable data and non-meaningfully presentable data,  
and then transmit only the meaningfully presentable data to the client  
15 device for processing and display. In an alternative embodiment, the  
server sends the complete data stream to the client device, and the  
client device filters and parses the data, and then processes only the  
meaningfully presentable data for display on the client device.